

Remarks


The Applicants acknowledge the restriction requirement wherein the Application has been divided into 20 separate groups. The Applicants have cancelled Claims 20 – 42. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction as it applied to those cancelled claims is now moot. Nonetheless, the Applicants specifically reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to that subject matter.

The Applicants respectfully submit that division of this Application into 20 separate groups, with the ultimate possibility of having to obtain 20 separate patents on this subject matter, is truly burdensome upon the Applicants. The Applicants recognize that a fair division of the claims of the Application into truly different groups is appropriate. The Applicants therefore traverse only a portion of the restriction, which the Applicants believe to be eminently fair both to the Office and to the Applicants. In particular, the Applicants traverse the portion of the restriction as it applies to Groups XVI – XX. The Applicants respectfully submit that there is no burden at all on the Office to examine those Groups together, inasmuch as the restriction itself admits the lack of burden on the Office. In particular, the restriction recognizes that a search conducted for all of Groups XVI – XX will be conducted in the same areas since all of Groups XVI – XX have been classified in Class 514, Sub-Class 2, 44. The Applicants respectfully submit that this is *prima facie* evidence of the lack of burden on the Patent Office in examining that portion of the Applicants' claims. The Applicants therefore respectfully request that the restriction be withdrawn as it applies to Groups XVI – XX and that Claims 43 – 47 be examined on the merits.

The Applicants, nonetheless, elect Group XIX, directed to Claim 46, so that this Amendment will be fully responsive in all ways. The Applicants have also added new Claim 48, which presents Claim 46 in independent form. Further, the Applicants have added new Claim 49 that combines the

subject matter of all of Claims 43 – 47 into one convenient claim, also in independent form. The Applicants accordingly respectfully request examination of both of Claims 48 and 49 on the merits as well.

Respectfully submitted,


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